

What If?

Scripture: Luke 1:26 – 38, Matthew 1:18 – 25, and Luke 2:8 – 20

On this Christmas Eve, let us look at the main characters in the Christmas story: Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds. For each character, I am going to ask a question – What If?

Let us explore what would happen to the Christmas story if each of them had said NO to God's calling in their lives. I hope this will allow you to think what would happen to you if you said NO to Jesus.

First, let us wonder – What If Mary had not said YES to God's call? What if Mary had said NO to the angel Gabriel about having God's son? Our scripture reading for this part of the message is the Gospel of Luke 1:26 – 38 (Read passage)

What if Mary would have been just another Jewish girl who married and raised her children and lived a normal life? The whole Christmas story would have never happened without Mary's faith and blessing. The conflict with her husband would not have happened. The shepherds would have had no place to go and the glory of God would have never come to the earth.

Let us on this Christmas Eve, thank God for Mary's faith in God and Mary's motherhood.

Now, let us listen to the song 'Mary Did You Know' sung by Sarah Williams and accompanied by her husband Joe Andrews.

Second, let us wonder – What if Joseph had not answered God’s calling and just became another carpenter in Nazareth? Would he have divorced Mary, making her a scorned woman in the town? Without Joseph, the Christmas story would not have happened. Our scripture reading for this part of the message is the Gospel of Matthew 1:18 - 25
(Read passage)

Let us on this Christmas Eve, thank God for Joseph commitment to Mary and faith in God.

Now let us listen to the song ‘What Child Is This’ sung by Michael Incitti and accompanied by Aimee Gusky.

And finally, let us wonder – What if the shepherds had not answered the angels calling to go to Bethlehem and see the new born king? What if they would have just tended their sheep like any other night? They would have not known the joy of Christ’s birth. Without the shepherds, the Christmas story would be lacking in joy and celebration. Our scripture reading for this final part of the message is the Gospel of Luke 2:8 - 20
(Read passage)

Let us now listen to a story about the shepherd who was left in the field to tend to the sheep while the other shepherds went to see the new born king. This story will be shared by Rev. Kevin Munroe.

Now let us listen to the song ‘Shepherd Boy’ sung by Danita Faye Robinson.

All these characters – Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds – would have lived in obscurity. They would not have seen Jesus and their lives would have never changed.

So, where would you be if you had not heard about Jesus Christ or Christmas? You would live in a different world with less joy, hope, peace, and love.

Where would we be if we had not heard about Jesus Christ or Christmas? We would live in a different world with no salvation and forgiveness available to us.

Thank God for Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds – and most especially – thank God for his son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Now let us listen to the song ‘Christmas Halleluiah’ sung by Marc Theriault and accompanied by Aimee Gusky.

Let us pray:

Great God, help us to always say YES to you and do not let us ever say NO to you. May we always remember, celebrate and praise your Son and Christmas. AMEN.